

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the full paragraph at page 3, lines 12-13, which paragraph describes FIG. 6.

Please replace the full paragraph at page 4, lines 5-20, with the following amended paragraph:

-- FIG. 4 is an example of a forward digital and analog hybrid network 400. One portion of a headend 405 provides the analog RF signals and another portion of the headend 410 provides the digital signals. It will be appreciated that the headends 405, 410 can be physically placed together or separately. Both the analog and digital signals are combined through a wave division multiplexed (WDM) multiplexer 415. The combined forward signals are then transmitted downstream via fiber through a digital network 420, which may include routers and switches, or other such devices that possess the means to route and process the individual wavelengths carrying the analog signals using conventional analog techniques. The forward signals are then demultiplexed, for example, at an Ethernet hub 425 that includes a WDM demultiplexer 430 and an optical-to-electrical converter (not shown). The demultiplexer 430 provides the original analog RF signals through a coaxial cable output 435. The analog RF signals are then amplified and split, if necessary, in the conventional manner and provided to a subscriber. The digital signals are provided to the subscriber via another communication medium, such as a CAT 5 rated twisted pair (T.P.) cable, which is connected to at least one output 440 of the demultiplexer ~~[[425]]~~430. The digital signals generally enter the home through a typical telephone line to a modem, computer, or other digital communications device; whereas, the analog signals generally enter the home through coaxial cable to a modem, set-top, or television.--

Please replace the full paragraph at page 6, lines 3-13, with the following amended paragraph:

-- If the reverse communications network 300 is a hybrid network and incorporates the conventional reverse "digital" signals, such as Ethernet and high-speed data, a discriminator circuit ~~[[605]]~~ routes the reverse "digital" signals to a different path before the digital receiver 315. The discriminator circuit ~~[[605]]~~ uses the header information to determine whether the

received signals are the digitized “analog” signals or the “digital” signals as mentioned hereinabove. If the signals are the “digital” signals, the discriminator circuit [[605]] routes the signals to a digital headend for processing. If, however, the signals are the conventional “analog” signals, the signals are provided to the digital receiver 315 for conversion back to analog signals. The discriminator circuit [[605]] is typically included within the digital network 310 as routers and switches that simply receive the identifiers of the header information associated with the incoming packetized signals, and then route the signals to the correct upstream path, i.e., the analog path or the digital path.--